

Recreation Information for Libby Dam in July

Contact: Alana Mesenbrink, 406-293-5577

LIBBY, Mont., – Recreationists have several summertime opportunities available at Libby Dam. Nestled in the mountains of Northwestern Montana lies one of the state's best-kept secrets. Libby Dam was built to provide flood risk management for the Kootenai and lower Columbia Rivers, as well as providing an additional source of hydroelectric power for the region.

Recreation is abundant with ample boating, camping and hiking opportunities. One of the many unique features of Libby Dam is a 75-ton granite sculpture found on the face of the Treaty Tower, the largest tower on the dam. This sculpture was part of an international competition held during construction commemorating the Columbia River Treaty, which allowed for the construction of Libby Dam.

On July 13, the outflow from Libby Dam was 7,000 cubic feet per second and will be held to this level through the rest of July, and will remain at a similar flow through the rest of the summer.

The current Koocanusa Reservoir elevation (above mean sea level) is 2,436 feet, which is 23 feet from full pool. The projected elevation for July 20 is approximately 2,438 feet. McGillvray beach is accessible at elevation 2,453 ft and the mooring dock at Souse Gulch will open at approximately 2,442 ft.

The current outflow temperature from Libby Dam is 54° F, and the near-surface temperature in the forebay of Koocanusa Reservoir is 68°F.

Recreationists are urged to wear life jackets when in, near or on the water. Your life may depend upon it.

Junior Ranger programs this week will focus on boats. The programs will be held in Libby on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Fireman's Park and in Eureka on Thursday at the public library at 3:30 p.m. The campfire program season starts this Saturday evening at 7 p.m. at Dunn Creek Campground with a program about fish in the Kootenai.

Come on out and enjoy the summer recreation opportunities! If you have questions or need additional information about daily tours or picnic shelter reservations, please contact Park Ranger Alana Mesenbrink, Libby Dam Visitor Center, at 406-293-5577.